

# Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

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## LG Sinha Chairs 36th University Council Meeting Of SKUAST-K



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday chaired the 36th University Council Meeting of SKUAST-Kashmir, at Lok Bhavan.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah; Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperatives, Javid Ahmad Dar; Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo; Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma; Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Shaileendra Kumar; Chairman Committee on Reimagining Agriculture NITI Aayog, Dr. Ashok Dalwai; DDG ICAR, Dr. Yashpal Malik; Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Mandeep K Bhandari; Vice Chancellor SKUAST Kashmir, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai; Vice Chancellor SKUAST Jammu, Dr. B.N. Tripathi; Commissioner Secretary, Planning Development & Monitoring

Department, Ms R Alice Vaz; Registrar SKUAST Kashmir, Dr Azmat Alam Khan and other senior officials.

The Council approved several institutional reforms, including the upgradation of the Agricultural Research Information System into the Directorate of Information Technology, the Internal Quality Assurance Cell into the Directorate of Quality Assurance, and the establishment of an International Students Cell to strengthen global outreach and student support.

As part of SKUAST-Kashmir's future roadmap, three futuristic and self-sustainable flagship initiatives were proposed during the meeting: the establishment of a Centre for Agri Innovation, Analytics and Certification as a National Reference Laboratory; creation of an Agri-Startup Park to nurture and host over 50 SKUAST startup enterprises; and establishment of a Global Veterinary School as an internationally benchmarked centre. **•P-06**

## J&K On Maximum Alert Ahead Of Amarnath Yatra

Advanced Surveillance Systems, Facial Recognition Cameras Put In Place

SAJID RAINA

**SRINAGAR:** Authorities have beefed up security in Jammu and Kashmir ahead of the 57-day annual Amarnath Yatra, slated to commence on July 3, with the Union Territory placed on maximum alert to ensure the safe and smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

According to the details available, authorities have rolled out an extensive security, surveillance and traffic management plan to ensure that the annual yatra passes off peacefully.

The yatra to the 3,880-metre-high holy cave shrine, nestled in Himalayas in South Kashmir will conclude on August 28. This year's Yatra will be longer than last year's duration of around 38 days.

Officials said that security agencies have intensified preparations across the Union Territory to manage the expected movement of thousands of pilgrims through the twin routes of Pahalgam and Baltal.

They said specialised security teams have been deployed while comprehensive fire safety audits of hotels, lodges and guest houses accommodating pilgrims have been conducted. Authorities have also introduced QR-based digital identification for service providers associated with the pilgrimage.



of zonal and sector officers deployed for Yatra duties, directing them to maintain strict adherence to standard operating procedures and ensure close coordination with all departments.

Security review meetings have also been held in Samba, while Jammu Municipal Corporation Commissioner Devansh Yadav reviewed civic arrangements at Purani Mandi. A tenant verification drive has been launched in Jammu and security has been intensified at the Jammu Bus Stand.

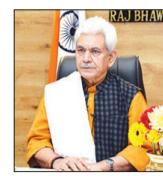
Meanwhile, the Traffic Police Headquarters issued a detailed advisory regulating the movement of convoy and non-convoy vehicles during the Yatra period.

According to the advisory, Yatra convoys from Jammu towards Baltal will leave at 4 am, cross Banihal by 10 am and proceed from Ganderbal towards Baltal by 5 pm. Convoys towards Pahalgam will depart Jammu at 4.15 am and cross Banihal by 10.45 am.

For returning convoys, vehicles from Baltal will move towards Jammu from 6 am, while those from Pahalgam will begin at 6 am and 6.30 am.

Authorities have also imposed cut-off timings. **•P-06**

Lok Bhavan Jammu & Kashmir @LokBhavanJandK



**Viksit Bharat—Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) scheme guarantees 125 days of wage employment annually to every eligible rural household willing to undertake unskilled manual work, up from the earlier 100-day guarantee. Employment is to be provided within 15 days of demand, failing which applicants will be entitled to unemployment allowance. Wage payments will be made on a weekly basis or within a fortnight, with compensation for delays.**

## J&K Police Top Brass Joins 8th Muharram Procession



REHAN QAYOOM

**SRINAGAR, JUN 24:** Top brass of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday joined the traditional 8th Muharram procession in Srinagar and interacted with mourners, while thousands of devotees participated in the religious observance amid elaborate security, traffic and civic arrangements put in place by the administration.

According to the details available, Director General of Police (DGP) J&K Nalin Prabhat remained on the ground to monitor the arrangements for the 8th Muharram procession and visited Dalgate Imam Bargah, where he interacted with mourners and members of the local community.

The DGP was warmly received by devotees, while several children were seen posing for photographs with him during his visit. While leaving the Imam Bargah **•P-06**

## Kashmir's GI QR Code System Earns National Recognition



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, has been conferred with the prestigious SKOCH Award for its innovative GI QR Code Management System, implemented through the Pashmina Testing & Quality Certification Centre (PTQCC) at the Craft Development Institute (CDI) and the NABL-accredited Carpet Testing Laboratory at IICT, Srinagar.

The award recognizes the Department's pioneering use of technology to strengthen product authenticity, quality assurance, sustainability and artisan welfare in the handicrafts sector.

In a statement issued here today, a spokesperson of the department said, "The GI QR Code Management System is among the country's first comprehensive QR code-based Geographical Indication (GI) certification mechanisms for handicrafts".

The award was received by Sajid Nazir, Senior Faculty, CDI, on behalf of the Department at a ceremony in New Delhi.

The award-winning system enables buyers to instantly verify the authenticity, origin and **•P-06**

## Thousands Participate In 8th Muharram Procession As Kashmir Mourns Karbala Martyrs

Black Flags Blanket City Centre As Mourners March Along Guru Bazar-Dalgate Route

REHAN QAYOOM

**SRINAGAR:** From weeks of preparation and a city draped in black to a sea of mourners flowing through Srinagar city on Wednesday, the traditional 8th Muharram procession unfolded as a powerful expression of faith, sacrifice and collective remembrance.

As mourners filled the streets, children carrying alms walked alongside elders, volunteers ran saabels across the route, religious leaders highlighted the message of humanity, and authorities ensured the peaceful conduct of one of Kashmir's largest Muharram gatherings.

Thousands of mourners converged on the traditional through Budshah Kadal, Jehangir Chowk and M.A. Road before culminating at Dalgate. The route echoed with nauhas and elegies as mourners carrying



black standards joined the procession from different districts of Kashmir.

Among the most heart-touching scenes were the participation of little children. Dressed in black, many carried miniature alms and flags. **•P-06**

## Rain, Thunderstorms, Gusty Winds Hit Kashmir Parts



SAJID RAINA

**SRINAGAR:** Several parts of Jammu and Kashmir witnessed rain, thundershowers, gusty winds and hailstorm activity on Wednesday evening as the Meteorological Department forecast a fresh spell of widespread rainfall across the Union Territory from June 30 to July 3.

An official of Meteorological Centre Srinagar said that rain and thundershowers affected many areas of Kupwara, Handwara, Baramulla, Sopore, Ganderbal and Bandipora districts, besides parts of Srinagar, Poonch, Rajouri and Kishtwar. Weather activity was also reported along the

Sonamarg-Baltal-Holy Cave and Pahalgam-Holy Cave axes.

Officials said some places experienced brief intense showers, thunderstorms, gusty winds and hailstorm activity, particularly in North and Central Kashmir. Localised waterlogging was reported in some low-lying areas of Srinagar following heavy showers.

The weather office advised people to remain indoors during thunderstorms and stay away from electric poles, wires, loose structures and old trees. Boating and shikara operations were also advised to be suspended during adverse weather conditions.

The MeT office **•P-06**

NGT Amicus Report

## J&K Faces 530 Tonne Daily Waste Treatment Gap; Dal, Wular Lakes At Risk

Highlights 1.8 Million Tonnes Of Legacy Waste, Calls For Dedicated Protection Plans

RAJA SYED RATHER

**SRINAGAR:** An Amicus Curiae appointed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has raised concerns over gaps in municipal solid waste and sewage management in Jammu and Kashmir, while suggesting several measures to safeguard environmentally sensitive water bodies, including Dal Lake and Wular Lake.

In a note submitted before the NGT's Principal Bench in connection with Original Application No. 606 of 2018, the Amicus Curiae reviewed the compliance affidavit filed by the Union Territory and observed that J&K generates



around 1,557 tonnes of municipal solid waste every day. Of this, nearly 1,027 tonnes are processed, leaving a treatment shortfall of about 530 tonnes per day. The report also highlighted that around 26 tonnes of waste remain uncollected daily.

According to the note, accessed, nearly 352 tonnes of waste are currently being dumped in landfills. It added that a proposal to use Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) in cement plants is under consideration. A 300-tonne-per-day Com-

pressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plant has also been sanctioned and is expected to be completed by March 2027, while two Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste processing facilities are likely to be commissioned this year.

The Amicus Curiae also expressed concern over the large volume of legacy waste across the Union Territory. The note states that around 1.816 million tonnes of old waste are lying at 101 identified dump sites spread across 49 urban local bodies. It further observed that details regarding leachate treatment, land reclamation, site restoration and the future use of reclaimed land have **•P-06**

Successful Trial Runs Completed

## Gulmarg Gondola Likely To Resume Operations Today

WARIS FAYAZ

**SRINAGAR:** The Gulmarg Gondola, one of Kashmir's premier tourist attractions, is likely to resume operations on Thursday after remaining shut for a month following a major technical malfunction that left hundreds of tourists stranded mid-air.

Sources said that successful trial runs of the cable car system have been completed and authorities are now preparing for the restoration of services.

"The trial runs have been successful and there is nothing left. We will most probably resume operations tomorrow evening," they said.

The Gondola has remained non-functional since May 25, when a technical snag halted services and left more than 300 tourists stranded in cabins suspended above the ground. The incident triggered panic among visitors and led to a large-scale rescue operation involving technical teams and **•P-06**

## Frequent Parliamentary Study Tours Bring Focus On J&K's Development, Tourism



WARIS FAYAZ

**SRINAGAR:** For Jammu & Kashmir, the past two months have felt like a revolving door of parliamentary delegations, with the seventh such group set to arrive in the Valley on Thursday (June 25).

Since the conclusion of the Budget Session of Parliament, the Union Territory has witnessed a steady stream of parliamentary delegations undertaking study tours. The Parliamentary Panel on External Affairs, headed by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, is currently visiting the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Meanwhile,

the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas is scheduled to begin its four-day study tour of Jammu & Kashmir tomorrow.

This will mark the seventh visit by a Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee since the Budget Session ended on April 18.

According to details available, the Department-related Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, led by MP Digvijaya Singh, visited Jammu & Kashmir immediately after the Budget Session. The committee reviewed educational reforms, youth **•P-06**

## JMC Commissioner reviews arrangements for Amarnath Yatra pilgrims



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Jammu Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav Wednesday reviewed arrangements and facilities being put in place for pilgrims and sadhus arriving in Jammu for the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra at Shri Ram Mandir Purani Mandi.

The Commissioner inspected preparations at the temple complex and reviewed infrastructure and essential services

within the premises, covering accommodation, sanitation, food, drinking water, toilets and bathrooms, power supply and medical facilities. Officials concerned were directed to ensure all arrangements are completed well in time and maintained to the highest standards.

Dr. Yadav was also apprised of ongoing work for installation of a lift within the temple complex, expected to be completed by next year, which will enhance accessibility for

elderly pilgrims and persons with disabilities.

Officials were directed to ensure clean accommodation, hygienic food, safe drinking water, proper bedding and efficient sanitation, with cleanliness maintained round the clock and all support services fully functional throughout the Yatra period. Dr. Yadav stressed close coordination among all departments and stakeholders to ensure every pilgrim receives quality facilities and a safe, convenient experience.

## KU hosts Consultative Workshop on "Strengthening Cyber Security Frameworks for State Data"

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The J&K Information Technology Department in collaboration with the University of Kashmir and with support from the National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Union Ministry for Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Wednesday organized a UT Level Consultative Workshop on "Strengthening Cyber Security Frameworks for State Data" at the University of Kashmir, Srinagar.

The workshop was organized as part of the national consultative process being undertaken by NeGD, MeitY, to facilitate stakeholder consultations and develop a comprehensive framework for strengthening cybersecurity, data protection and digital resilience across States and Union Territories.

The inaugural session was attended by Professor Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir; Saurabh Bhagat, Commissioner Secretary Information Technology Department; Asha Choudhary Malhotra, Chief Executive Officer, JaKeGA; Professor



Naseer Iqbal, Registrar, University of Kashmir; Abdul Hafiz Shah, Special Information Technology Department; Shokat Mehmood Special Secretary; Jaskaran Singh Modi, State Informatics Officer, NIC J&K; Maroof Naieem Qadri, Director IT, University of Kashmir; Ashaq Dar, Director, NIELIT, besides representatives from NeGD, CERT-In (through VC), NIC, J&K Bank, SeMT, JaKeGA, Academia and senior officers of various government departments who have also been nominated as CISOs, ISOs and Technical Experts.

Addressing the participants, Saurabh Bhagat emphasized that cybersecurity has emerged as a critical pillar of digital governance and citizen

trust. He highlighted the growing dependence of government institutions on digital platforms for delivery of public services. He underscored the need for robust cybersecurity mechanisms, proactive threat management, and resilient digital infrastructure to safeguard critical government systems and citizen data.

The workshop was attended by the policymakers, cybersecurity experts, government officials, academia and industry stakeholders to deliberate on the emerging cyber threats, cybersecurity best practices, incident response mechanisms, data protection frameworks and institutional measures required to strengthen cyber resilience across the Union Territory.

A major highlight of the workshop was the breakout group discussions, where the participants deliberated on six key thematic areas. These included risk-based security assessments, securing State Data Centres and State Wide Area Networks, strengthening Security Operations Centres (SOCs) and Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs), modernizing legacy systems, implementing data protection and privacy frameworks besides enhancing the cybersecurity capacity-building initiatives.

The discussions focused on strengthening the cybersecurity governance, enhancing monitoring and incident response capabilities, securing critical digital infrastructure, promoting

secure-by-design principles, protecting citizen data and fostering a culture of cybersecurity awareness across government institutions.

The participants also took note of the significant progress made by Jammu & Kashmir in digital governance and cybersecurity. The prominent achievements included establishment of the State Security Operations Centre (JK-SOC), approval of Cyber Crisis Management Plans (CCMPs) across departments, implementation of cybersecurity monitoring mechanisms, large-scale security audits of government websites and various capacity-building initiatives.

The workshop concluded with presentations by the six thematic groups, followed by a plenary discussion on key recommendations and action points. The deliberations and recommendations emerging from the workshop will be shared with the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and will contribute towards formulation of a stronger and more resilient cybersecurity framework for State Governments across the country.

## GCW Nawakadal marks Int'l Day Against Drug Abuse with multiple events

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** In a massive, multi-dimensional effort to commemorate the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking under the national theme "Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan - Viksit Bharat Ki Pehchan", the College Well-being and Anti-Substance Cell of Government College for Women (GCW) Nawakadal organized a mega series of plantation, sports, and music activities Wednesday.

Coordinated by Nodal Officer, Dr. Nuzhat Jan, the day commenced with a campus plantation drive under the sub-theme "Ek Ped Nashey Ke Viruddh" in collaboration with the Department of Botany, led by HOD Dr. Riyaz u Rehman, followed by dynamic competitive matches in badminton, table tennis, and volleyball in collaboration with the Sports Committee.

Simultaneously, a powerful musical awareness program was conducted in collaboration with the Department of Music, led by HOD, Dr. Asmat Ara and CWASC Nodal Officer, Dr. Waseem.

During the event, the

Incharge Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Pinu Andrabi, termed drug addiction a silent epidemic, emphasizing that a drug-free generation is foundational to building a developed nation and stressing that continuous institutional intervention, sports, and arts serve as powerful deterrents.

Dr. Nuzhat Jan highlighted that every single activity and planted sapling today symbolizes a student's lifelong pledge toward a healthy, productive lifestyle while encouraging them to be active ambassadors for a drug-free society.

Dr. Waseem added that a culturally vibrant campus forms a strong psychological barrier against narcotics, while Dr. Riyaz u Rehman emphasized that just as strong roots anchor a tree, strong moral values protect youth from toxic dependencies.

Furthermore, Prof. Rukhsana Shawl noted that sports instill the exact discipline needed to shield youth from addiction, and Dr. Asmat Ara concluded by stating that music holds the unique power to awaken societal conscience and heal minds.

## District-Level Mega PM SVANidhi Mahotsav Workshop held in Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM:** A District-Level Mega PM SVANidhi Mahotsav Workshop was successfully conducted Wednesday at Town Hall, Budgam, under the chairmanship of the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Budgam, Vivek Agarwal.

The programme, organized by the Municipal Council Budgam, witnessed enthusiastic participation from representatives and beneficiaries of all Urban Local Bodies of the district, including Municipal Committees Magam, Chadoora, Charar-e-Sharief, Khanshib, and Beerwah. A significant number of street vendors from these municipalities attended the workshop and actively engaged in the proceedings.

The workshop was organized with the objective of creating greater awareness about the PM SVANidhi Scheme, a flagship initiative of the Government aimed at providing affordable and collateral-free financial assistance to street vendors to help strengthen their livelihoods and improve their

socio-economic conditions.

During the programme, various achievements and success stories of beneficiaries from different municipalities were showcased, highlighting the positive impact of the scheme on the lives of street vendors across the district. Beneficiaries shared their experiences regarding access to credit and the opportunities created through the scheme for expanding their businesses and enhancing their incomes.

On the occasion, the ADCD felicitated several beneficiaries with Appreciation Certificates in recognition of their successful utilization of the PM SVANidhi Scheme.

Addressing the gathering, the ADCD lauded the beneficiaries for effectively availing the benefits of the scheme and urged them to act as ambassadors of awareness by sharing their success stories with fellow street vendors. He emphasized that such peer-to-peer motivation would encourage more eligible vendors to avail themselves of the scheme and contribute towards their economic empowerment.

## ADDC B'la conducts inspection of KGBV, Palash Hostels

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BARAMULLA:** A team headed by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Baramulla, Pranjal J. Hazarika Wednesday undertook an extensive field inspection of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) at Watergam, Tragpora and Palaash/Parisha Hostels at Rebban and Kanispora to assess the quality of facilities and overall living conditions being provided to the resident students.

The ADCD was accompanied by District Information Officer Baramulla, Iftakhar Naseem and representatives from Health, Education, Food Safety and other departments.

During the visit, the team carried out a thor-

ough review of various aspects of hostel management, including sanitation, hygiene standards, availability of basic amenities, quality of food, drinking water facilities, accommodation arrangements, healthcare provisions and overall upkeep of the hostel premises.

The ADCD interacted with hostel wardens, staff members and students to obtain first-hand feedback regarding the facilities available and the challenges faced by the residents. Emphasis was laid on ensuring a safe, secure and conducive environment for the students residing in the hostels.

Special attention was given to the cleanliness of kitchens, dining halls, washrooms and dormito-

ries. The inspection team also assessed the availability and functionality of essential infrastructure, including electricity, water supply, bedding, study spaces and recreational facilities.

As part of the inspection, a detailed review of fire safety measures and emergency preparedness mechanisms was also conducted. The ADCD stressed the importance of maintaining robust safety standards in all residential institutions and directed the concerned departments to prepare and submit a comprehensive fire exit and evacuation plan. The plan, he said, should be duly vetted by the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) to ensure pre-

paredness in the event of any emergency or unforeseen exigency.

Meanwhile, the ADCD directed the Food Safety Officer to undertake regular inspections of all KGBV and Palash Hostels across the district to ensure strict compliance with food safety and hygiene standards, emphasizing that the quality, nutritional value and safe handling of food served to students must be monitored on a continuous basis.

The ADCD further instructed the concerned officials to address any deficiencies identified during the inspection in a time-bound manner and ensure strict adherence to prescribed standards of safety, hygiene and student welfare.

## DC Budgam reviews preparedness for Pulse Polio Immunization Drive

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to finalise preparations for the Pulse Polio Immunization Drive scheduled to be held on June 28th, 2026.

The meeting was attended by the PO ICDS Budgam, CMO Budgam, CEO Budgam, DIO Budgam, all BMOs, ARTO Budgam, and other concerned district officers, health authorities, block-level teams, and officials from supporting departments who are directly involved in vaccination planning, booth management, logistics, supervision, and field execution.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed in detail the district-wide micro-plan for the immunization drive, which included block-wise targets, number of Pulse Polio booths, manpower deployment, and the overall preparedness of health and field teams.

Officers presented the



complete structure of booth arrangements across Budgam district along with the deployment of vaccinators, supervisors, and supporting manpower to ensure the smooth functioning of the campaign.

A special focus of the meeting remained on high-risk and hard-to-reach areas, with detailed block-wise presentations.

The DC emphasised that all these locations must receive dedicated attention, with proper vaccination booths, field supervision, and follow-up mechanisms to ensure that no eligible child is left out.

The meeting also assessed the location and functioning of transit booths, which will be established at busy mobil-

ity points such as markets, bus stands, and major travel routes to cover children who are on the move during the campaign period.

Officers from the Health Department shared block-wise requirements of vaccine vials, cold chain logistics, printed material, banners, and other necessary supplies for the smooth execution of the drive.

The DC reviewed the plan for door-to-door verification activities that will follow the booth day, aimed at identifying and vaccinating any missed children.

A detailed schedule of training sessions and workshops for supervisors, vaccinators, ASHAs, AWWs, and other field workers was also presented

during the meeting.

The DC directed officials to keep track of all migratory and tribal populations, particularly families moving from one district to another, so that every child under five years of age belonging to these groups is covered under the immunization programme.

He stressed that mobile teams and transit points must work in close coordination to ensure that the movement of such populations does not result in any child being missed during the drive.

The DC stressed ensuring that no child is left out of the Pulse Polio Immunization Drive and directed officers to ensure 100 per cent booth staffing, timely reporting, strong monitoring, and an uninterrupted vaccine supply across all blocks.

The DC directed all concerned departments to work collectively for the successful and comprehensive implementation of the Pulse Polio Immunization Drive across District Budgam.

**GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT.**  
**GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR**  
 BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.  
 E-mail: - hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in | Tel./ Fax No:- 0194-2411285

**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS**  
**GIST of Detailed/Fresh e-NIT No: - 25/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27.**

For and on behalf of Government of UT - J&K, e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Firms/Companies/drilling agencies/Joint Ventures etc for "registered experienced Contractors of Machine Drilled Hand pump wells" as per details given below. The bidding process shall be completed online on [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) in two covers viz. Cover 1<sup>st</sup> consisting of Pre Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2<sup>nd</sup> shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

S. No	S. No of AA	Name of work	Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs	Earnest money (EMD)	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion	Major Head / Programme	Technical Sanction	Tender Call
1	1	Installation of Tube Well near the land of Gh. Mohammad Chopan near irrigation Division Tral Bala in District Pulwama.	Rs. 3.038 Lacs	Rs.9,200/- Lacs	Rs.200/-	10 Days	CDF Scheme Hon'ble MLA Tral, 2026-27).	JS-PHE/GWDS/ CDF Scheme/24 of 06/ 2026, Dt: 24-06-2026	1 <sup>st</sup>
2	2	Tube Well near H/O Nazir Ahmad Amlar in District Pulwama.	Rs. 2.996 Lacs	Rs.9,000/- Lacs	Rs.200/-	10 Days	CDF Scheme Hon'ble MLA Tral, 2026-27).	JS-PHE/GWDS/ CDF Scheme/25 of 06/ 2026, Dt: 24-06-2026	1 <sup>st</sup>
3	1	Construction of Bore Well NLO Reyaz Ahmad Reshi near Shopping Complex, Bilal Ahmad Wani, Akingam in District Anantnag.	Rs. 3.07 Lacs	Rs.9,300/-	Rs.200/-	10 Days	District Capex Budget 2025-26 (DDC Grants)	JS-PHE/GWDS/ Distt. Capex/ 230 of 02/ 2026, Dt: 12-02-2026	2 <sup>nd</sup>

**Position of Funds - Available:**  
 Note: The above-mentioned works (Refer Table - I) SI. No 03. were earlier advertised vide this office e-NIT No: 84 of 2025-26 Dated: 13-02-2026 (Fig. at SI. No.02) & cancelled vide this office No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp/21149-79, Dated: 30-03-2026. (SI. No.13)  
 The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website: <https://www.jktenders.gov.in> From 24.06.2026 (04:00 PM) to 14.07.2026 (02:00 PM)

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: <https://www.jktenders.gov.in> As per Critical Dates/Information scheduled given below

Table-II	
1.	Publishing Date 24-06-2026 (04:00 P.M)
2.	Period of Downloading of Bids 24-06-2026 (04:00 P.M) upto 14-07-2026 (02:00 P.M).
3.	Period of Submission of bids 24-06-2026 (04:00 P.M) upto 14-07-2026 (02:00 P.M).
4.	Date of opening of Tender. 15-07-2026 (02:00 P.M)
5.	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Srinagar Kashmir-190011
6.	Cost of Tender Document : To be deposited online (if available) or Non-Refundable should be in form of DD /TR/ deposited to Account Head 0215 or in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply Note: In case the firm/agency/contractor submits/uploaded scanned copy of tender document fee in the shape of DD /TR/ the hard copies shall have to be submitted in the divisional office before opening of cover 2 <sup>nd</sup> (Financial Cover) of e-NIT (if needed)
7.	Bid Validity Period: 180 Days
8.	The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on <a href="http://www.jktenders.gov.in">www.jktenders.gov.in</a>

No instrument—such as an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), Treasury Receipt, or Challan-generated prior to the publication of the tender document will be accepted. Any bid submitted contrary to this requirement is liable for summary rejection. In the event the tender is retendered due to government exigencies or otherwise, an instrument shall be considered valid only if generated after the date of the initial tender publication.  
 The cost of Tender Document under Account Head 0215 to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Ground Water Division Srinagar (as specified in the table (I) (Page 1st). Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding documents and shall be valid for 180 Days after opening of bid. Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Division Srinagar (H.Q. Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar) on 15-07-2026 (02:00 PM) If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.  
 No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/3151-67  
 Dated: - 24/06 -2026.  
 DIPK-2510-26  
 DT: 24/06/2026

Sd/-  
 Executive Engineer  
 Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.  
 Ground Water Division, Srinagar.

# Int'l Conference "The Sacred Journey to Amarnath Ji" commences in Anantnag

Speakers deliberate on spiritual, cultural, socioeconomic, ecological and historical dimensions of SANJY

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**ANANTNAG:** First of its kind, a two-day International Conference on the theme "The Sacred Journey to Shri Amarnath Ji: A Multi-Dimensional Perspective" commenced Wednesday at Government College for Women (GCW), Anantnag.

The conference, being organised by District Administration in collaboration with the host college, has brought together administrators, faculty from reputed institutions and organisations, eminent academicians, researchers, scholars, students, officials and civil society members.

The inaugural session was attended by Deputy Commissioner (DC), Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat (Patron of the Conference), Principal GCW, Prof. Khalida Hassan (Co-patron of the Conference), Prof. Monowar Alam Khalid (Professor Environmental Science and Dean Students Welfare, Integral University Lucknow), Prof. Himanshu Roy (Professor Centre for Political Studies, JNU), Prof. Kapil Kumar (Former Chair Professor, Centre for Freedom Struggle and Diaspora Studies), Prof. Farooq Ahmad Malik, GDCW (Organising Secretary), faculty of various Govt Degree Colleges, academicians, researchers, scholars, students and civil society members.



Three sessions were held on first day during which the speakers deliberated upon various aspects of the revered Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY). They highlighted the historical, cultural and spiritual significance of the Annual Himalayan Pilgrimage besides elaborating its administrative, socioeconomic and ecological dimensions.

In her welcome address, Principal of the College highlighted the importance of academic discussions on heritage, traditions and the overall significance of the annual SANJY. She said the platform will serve as a great opportunity to engage on multicultural aspects of the sacred Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner underlined the importance of preserving the cultural and spiritual legacy associated with Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. He said that syncretic uniqueness of this annual pilgrimage is reflected

committed to ensure it is conducted in a safe, seamless and pilgrim friendly manner.

Professor Kapil Verma while speaking on the occasion said that people of Kashmir have old age ethical and social connection with the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, emphasising the cultural pluralism and syncretic values of the place. He said that hospitality of Kashmir is well known to the world. He termed the local people as "part and parcel" of the sacred pilgrimage who always provide the necessary service and cooperation during the entire Yatra. He further highlighted the economic impact of the pilgrimage tourism besides the diversity of the nation.

During the inaugural session, Prof. Monowar Alam Khalid delivered a special address on "Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra: Ecological Challenges and Suggested Solutions." He called for complimenting the ecological wisdom with suitable technological interventions so the goal of a sustainable Yatra on the fragile Himalayan region is realised.

Prof. Khalid further said that management decisions should be guided by ecological thresholds and scientific assessment of maximum carrying capacity keeping in view pilgrim numbers, camp strength, waste handling capacity, resource availability and emergency

response mechanisms. He advocated for zero waste techniques, green energy transition, protection of resources and biodiversity, nature based solutions, involvement of local community, linking of Yatra with Sustainable Development Goals so that the sacred pilgrimage becomes a global model of sustainable religious tourism.

In his keynote address on "Multiculturalism in India: A Historical Trajectory", Prof. Himanshu Roy said that multiple cultures have existed in India for centuries. He shared his valuable insights on the historical context of SANJY, enlightening the participants about the evolution of the spiritual journey.

Organising Secretary, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Malik gave an overview of the conference and emphasised the role of research and scholarly dialogue in understanding the pilgrimage from diverse perspectives.

The technical sessions witnessed paper presentations and detailed discussions by scholars and experts on themes including social, cultural and spiritual aspects of the Yatra, fostering peace and cultural resilience, philosophy of pilgrimage and ecological concerns.

The event aims to provide a platform for meaningful academic exchange and a comprehensive understanding of the sacred pilgrimage through multidisciplinary perspectives.

# NDMA conducts Table Top Exercise for SANJY-2026 at Pahalgam



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**ANANTNAG:** Ahead of the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under the chairmanship of Major General Sudhir Bahl (Retd.) and in collaboration with District Administration Anantnag, conducted a Table Top Exercise Wednesday at the JKTDC Club, Pahalgam.

The exercise was part of the ongoing preparedness measures for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026 aimed at ensuring seamless coordination among all key stakeholders involved in the management of the annual pilgrimage.

The exercise witnessed the participation of senior officers from the NDMA, Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction, district administration, ADC Defence Forces, Security Forces, Fire & Emergency Services, SDRF, Camp Directors and Additional Camp Directors and other concerned officials.

The objective was to assess operational readiness, enhance inter-agency coordination, and identify potential gaps in contingency planning related to route management, medical emergencies, weather-

induced challenges, and crowd control.

Addressing the participants, Major General Sudhir Bahl (Retd.) emphasized the importance of integrated planning and real-time coordination. He reviewed the disaster management plans in place a description of which was shared by district administration.

The exercise simulated multiple disaster scenarios to test the preparedness and response capabilities of all agencies involved. Detailed deliberations were held on communication strategies, evacuation procedures, and the deployment of critical resources.

# Rana inaugurates Rapid Sand Filtration Plant in Dooru, inspects WSS Express Highway

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**DOORU:** Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Wednesday inaugurated the 0.31 MGD Rapid Sand Filtration Plant at Dooru Town in Anantnag district.

The filtration plant has been established under the Water Supply Scheme (WSS) Augmentation Dooru Town being executed under JKIDFC/UT Capex to augment and strengthen the potable water supply in the area.

While dedicating the filtration plant to the people, the Minister said that the government is committed to ensure safe, adequate and reliable drinking water supply to every household across Jammu and Kashmir. He said that augmentation and modernization of existing water supply infrastructure is imperative to meet the growing demand and provide sustainable water security to the people.

Javed Rana was informed that the gravity-based scheme, which draws water from Verinag Nallah, caters to six wards of Dooru Town, including Arampora, Bonpora, Sehpora, Ganepora, Mirmaidan and Main Dooru Town. He was further apprised that the scheme will provide piped drinking water connectivity to all the 2,164 households in the command area besides covering 11 schools, one Degree College and two hospitals.

The project will significantly improve the quality and reliability of drinking water supplied to the consumers.

The Minister also reviewed the proposal under AMRUT 2.0 for construction of an additional one lakh gallon service reservoir aimed at upgrad-



ing the service levels and extending coverage to newly developed households.

Javed Rana directed the concerned officers to ensure proper operation and maintenance of the filtration plant and maintain the highest standards of quality in water supply services.

"Provision of clean and safe drinking water remains one of the top priorities of the government. The inauguration of this filtration plant marks another significant step towards strengthening the urban water supply infrastructure and improving the quality of life of the people," the Minister said.

Earlier, the Minister inspected the Water Supply Scheme (WSS) Express Highway near Navyug Tunnel, Qazigund, being implemented under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

During the visit, the Minister reviewed the implementation status of the scheme and assessed the progress of various ongoing works. He was apprised that the multi-village scheme covers the Panchayats of Chakhi-Wangund, Tangloo and Manzmoo in Block Hiller Shahabad and will provide sustainable drinking water facilities to the area.

The officers informed the Minister that the scheme draws water from the Express Highway Spring near Navyug Tunnel. It has been

designed to cater to a population of remaining 451 households, besides extending potable water facilities to 13 schools, 17 Anganwadi Centres, two Health Centres and four other public institutions, added the officers.

It was informed that the existing storage capacity of 1.16 lakh gallons is being augmented with an additional storage capacity of 65,000 gallons. The scheme also envisages construction of key infrastructure, including intake works, pre-filtration facilities, service reservoirs, sumps, pump houses, distribution network and other allied works.

Reviewing the pace of work, Javed Rana directed the concerned officers to expedite the execution of the remaining components and ensure timely completion of the project while maintaining the highest quality standards.

"WSS Express Highway near Navyug Tunnel is a significant project that will strengthen water supply infrastructure and ensure reliable drinking water services for the people of Chakhi-Wangund, Tangloo and Manzmoo," the Minister said.

The Minister also inspected the water storage tank at Chini Gund, Dooru and stressed the need for ensuring its proper functioning for efficient irrigation management and enhanced groundwater recharge in the area.

# J&K notifies VB-G RAM G scheme, replacing MGNREGA from July 1

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has notified the Jammu Kashmir Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-G RAM-G] Scheme, 2026, which will come into force across all notified rural areas of the Union Territory from July 1, 2026.

Issued under Section 3(1) read with Section 8 of the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025, the new scheme replaces MGNREGA and marks a major reform in rural employment and livelihood generation, aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

The scheme guarantees 125 days of wage employment annually to every eligible rural household willing to undertake unskilled manual work, up from the earlier 100-day guarantee. Employment is to be provided within 15 days of demand, falling which applicants will be entitled to unemployment allowance. Wage payments will be made on a weekly basis or within a fortnight, with compensation for delays.

To protect agricultural productivity, the scheme

introduces a mandatory 60-day pause in public works during peak sowing and harvesting seasons, ensuring adequate labour availability for farming activities. At the same time, it prioritises the creation of durable community assets and sustainable livelihood infrastructure.

VB-G RAM-G focuses on four priority sectors including Water Security, Core Rural Infrastructure, Livelihood Enhancement and Climate & Disaster Resilience. Planning will be undertaken through Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans (VGPps) using GIS-based tools and PM Gati Shakti layers, ensuring convergence, saturation-based development and avoidance of duplication.

The scheme provides special support for the vulnerable groups, including single women, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, members of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), released bonded labourers and transgender persons through dedicated Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Cards. At least one-third of beneficiaries under the programme shall be women.

A key feature of the scheme is its robust digital governance architecture,

incorporating biometric and face-authenticated attendance, geofencing, GPS-enabled project monitoring, AI-driven analytics, real-time dashboards, bilingual electronic muster rolls and mandatory public disclosures at worksites. The contractors and labour-displacing machinery are prohibited to preserve the employment-generation objective of the programme.

The implementation framework provides for strengthened institutional oversight at the UT, district, block and Gram Panchayat levels. The Gram Panchayats will continue to serve as the frontline implementing agencies responsible for registration of households, receiving work applications, issuance of guarantee cards and execution of approved works.

The scheme will operate as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a 90:10 cost-sharing pattern between the Government of India and the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Administrative expenditure has been enhanced to strengthen staffing, monitoring, grievance redressal and accountability systems, with substantial resources earmarked for Gram Panchayat-level functionaries.

# Javid Dar reviews fruit fall incidents; sets up Horticulture panel to fix causes



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Election Department, Javid Dar, Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the impact of recent fruit fall incidents across horticultural zones of Shopian and Anantnag districts.

The Minister took stock of the damage reported from various orchard belts and reviewed the ongoing measures for assessment and mitigation. He directed the officials to undertake a comprehensive ground-level survey to accurately quantify losses and ensure timely submission of reports.

The Minister emphasized the need for a broader response and called for an immediate assessment of fruit drop across major apple-growing districts, with specific focus on identifying vulnerable varieties and high-risk locations.

Stressing on quality control, he instructed the Enforcement Wing to intensify field inspections and take appropriate action against the sale of substandard or unauthorized pesticides and plant protection chemicals.

The Minister also directed for constitution of a committee headed by the Director Horticulture, Kashmir, to carry out a detailed assessment of the situation. The committee has been tasked with identifying the underlying causes of the incidents and submitting its report in a time bound manner.

He further instructed the officers to ensure wide dissemination of scientific recommendations on balanced nutrient management. He asked for providing necessary handholding support to the farmers regarding scientific orchard management practices to mitigate risk of recurrence of such incidents.

# Div Com, IGP Jammu review SANJY arrangements at Bhagwati Nagar, Tawi Riverfront

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, and Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti Wednesday reviewed arrangements for the smooth conduct of Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2026 at Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas and the Tawi Riverfront Token and Registration Centre.

Inspector General of Police, CRPF Jammu, DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua, DIG Traffic, Commissioner JMC, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu (Nodal Officer Jammu SANJY 2026), Director



Tourism, SSP Jammu, SSP Security, Director Health Services, Chief Engineers of executive agencies, Joint Director Information (Jammu), RTO, officers from Fire and Emergency Services and line departments were present.

Reviewing arrangements at Bhagwati Nagar, the Divisional Commissioner was apprised that all essential preparations and works at the Yatri Niwas camp have been put in place. Facilities for accommodation, drinking

water, power supply, locker rooms, washrooms, illumination and other amenities have been set up at the Yatri Niwas, along with a health facility with doctors, paramedics and medical stock, and a round-the-clock control room with dedicated teams from line departments to ensure the best services for pilgrims.

A traffic plan with cut-off timings has been prepared, and a rate list for public vehicles including e-rickshaws, auto-rickshaws and taxi services has been circulated. The Divisional Commissioner and IGP Jammu emphasised adherence to cut-off timings for departure of Yatra

convoys.

The Divisional Commissioner and IGP Jammu also visited the Token and Registration Centre at Tawi Riverfront, where they took a comprehensive on-the-spot review of arrangements for security, frisking points, multiple token and registration counters, drinking water, German hangars and barricading for smooth on-the-spot registration of pilgrims.

This year, the Token Centre for on-the-spot registration of pilgrims has been shifted to Tawi Riverfront with spacious, augmented facilities for a convenient and comfortable experience.

# Mandeep Kaur chairs WRRRC meet on Jal Hi AMRIT as J&K gets Rs 10.5 cr for wastewater reuse

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** With a focus on sustainable water management and promoting water circularity, the Water Resource Recovery Cell (WRRRC) under the Jal Hi AMRIT (JHA) initiative of AMRUT 2.0 met Wednesday under the chairpersonship of Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development, Mandeep Kaur.

The meeting discussed strategies to encourage reuse of treated wastewater, especially for non-potable purposes.

The officials informed that the Housing and Urban Development Department is implementing AMRUT 2.0 through various water supply, sewerage and water body rejuvenation projects. Under its Jal Hi AMRIT sub-component, launched to upgrade Sewage Treatment Plants through incentive-based funding, J&K has secured Rs 10.50 crore in incentives, so far. The ongoing interventions included installation of SCADA systems and tertiary treatment facilities to improve wastewater quality for reuse.

Pertinently, the J&K government has constituted a Water Resource Recovery Cell for inter-departmental coordination to ensure effective use of treated water. Its members included representatives from Agriculture, Horticulture, Industries and Commerce, Urban Local Bodies, Jal Shakti, I&FC, J&K Pollution Control Committee, Forest and Chambers

of Industries and Commerce. During the meeting, the members shared suggestions on the objectives and framework of the Jal Hi AMRIT initiative launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Mandeep Kaur stressed that treated water, meeting prescribed quality standards, should be utilized for the irrigating parks and gardens, industrial processes, construction, automobile cleaning, kitchen gardens and reducing non-revenue water. She said the initiative supports water conservation and circular economy principles by transforming wastewater into a valuable resource and underscored the need for robust quality testing before reuse.

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

## Religious Season And Shared Responsibility

semblance has been restored by persistence and consistency, which bore fruits at last. Kashmir is entering one of the busiest and most significant periods of the year. The observance of Muharram has been a success with the tourist season, and the annual Amarnath Yatra is unfolding simultaneously, bringing together faith, tradition, and public life on an unprecedented scale. While this convergence presents logistical challenges, it also offers an opportunity to showcase the Valley's enduring spirit of harmony, hospitality, and collective responsibility.

The assurance by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg that elaborate arrangements have been made for the peaceful observance of the 8th Muharram processions is both timely and reassuring. Large number of mourners with ultimate discipline and adherence to the law has been the highlight.

Muharram holds deep religious and cultural significance in Kashmir. For generations, these processions have been an important part of the Valley's social fabric, reflecting values of sacrifice, devotion, and community solidarity. This year, the scale of preparations reflects the complexity of the task at hand. Health services, emergency response teams, police personnel, and district administrations have joined hands to ensure that religious observances are conducted smoothly and safely. Such coordination becomes even more critical at a time when thousands of tourists are visiting Kashmir and pilgrims from across the country are arriving for the Amarnath Yatra.

However, the success of these arrangements cannot rest on the administration alone. Public cooperation remains the most important ingredient. Traffic advisories, designated routes, and safety guidelines are meant to facilitate movement and prevent inconvenience. When citizens, volunteers, religious organisations, and authorities work together, even the largest gatherings can be managed effectively. Muharram's message of patience, sacrifice, and unity carries special relevance today. The ability of Kashmir to accommodate religious observances, welcome tourists, and facilitate a major pilgrimage at the same time speaks volumes about the Valley's tradition of coexistence and mutual respect.

The coming weeks will undoubtedly test the preparedness of the administration, but they will also provide an opportunity for Kashmir to demonstrate its renowned culture of hospitality. Every devotee participating in Muharram processions, every pilgrim undertaking the Amarnath Yatra, and every tourist exploring the Valley should feel safe, respected, and welcomed.

As Kashmir navigates this demanding season, one message stands above all others: successful management depends on partnership. With careful planning, civic discipline, and community cooperation, the Valley can once again set an example of how faith, tourism, and public life can coexist peacefully and harmoniously. In the end, it is not merely about managing crowds or traffic. It is about preserving Kashmir's tradition of inclusiveness and proving that when people work together, even the most complex challenges can be transformed into a celebration of unity and shared purpose.

## Smartphone Addiction

# A Global Challenge Demanding Collective Action

LALIT GARG

Science and technology have propelled human civilisation at an unprecedented pace. We live in a digital age where the entire world has virtually been compressed into the palm of our hands. Smartphones have transformed communication, education, commerce, banking, healthcare, governance, and social interactions, opening new horizons for human progress. However, every technological revolution brings with it a set of profound challenges. The smartphone is perhaps the most striking example of this paradox. While it has emerged as an extraordinary boon, it is increasingly becoming a source of serious concern and, in many ways, a modern-day curse.

The adverse effects of excessive smartphone use, particularly on children and adolescents, have alarmed societies across the globe. Today, there is a growing consensus worldwide that a smartphone is not merely a device; it is a powerful tool whose use demands wisdom, restraint, and responsibility. Unfortunately, in the absence of discipline and ethical awareness, its negative consequences have become increasingly evident. Smartphone addiction among children and young people is contributing to mental stress, depression, loneliness, violent tendencies, exposure to pornography, cybercrime, and social disintegration. Consequently, not only traditional and developing societies but also advanced nations are taking stringent measures to address this challenge.

A recent initiative in Sukhpuri village in the Nuh district of Haryana, India, attracted nationwide attention. As the village began acquiring notoriety as a hub of cybercrime, distressed residents collectively decided to abandon smartphones and revert to basic mobile phones. This was not merely an act of breaking mobile phones; it was an expression of society's anguish over the misuse of technology. The resistance from the village youth was equally understandable, as education, employment, digital payments, and access to government services today largely depend on smartphones. This incident raises a critical question: Is rejecting technology the solution, or should society cultivate the values and discipline necessary for its responsible use?

Many countries around the world have already begun serious deliberations on this issue. Nations such as Australia, France, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, China, and the United States have introduced various measures to regulate smartphone use among children and adolescents. Australia has moved towards establishing age restrictions for social media access by minors. France has implemented bans on smartphone use in schools,

while the United Kingdom has issued guidelines limiting mobile phone usage within educational institutions. In the United States, legal actions have been initiated against social media companies, resulting in substantial penalties. The objective of these initiatives is not to oppose technology, but to safeguard the mental and social well-being of children. Indeed, smartphones embody both promise and peril. They offer a vast reservoir of knowledge, yet they also create a universe of misinformation and illusion. They serve as powerful educational tools, but simultaneously act as

gateways to pornography and violence. They generate employment opportunities, while also facilitating cybercrime. Today, many young people, lured by the dream of becoming wealthy overnight, are falling prey to cyber fraud, sextortion, online gambling, and digital scams. The proliferation of obscene content, fake news, hate speech, and trolling on social media has severely undermined social values and civic harmony.

Perhaps the gravest concern is the impact of excessive smartphone use on the mental health of children and adolescents. Numerous studies indicate that prolonged screen time adversely affects concentration, memory, and creativity. Sleep disorders, irritability, anxiety, depression, suicidal tendencies, and social isolation are increasing at an alarming rate. Family communication has diminished, and despite digital connectivity, emotional distances within households have widened. Children are increasingly abandoning playgrounds and becoming absorbed in virtual worlds. The smartphone is, in essence, a double-edged sword. The rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and sophisticated communication technologies has made this challenge even more complex. While AI is revolutionizing education, healthcare, research, and governance, concerns regarding its misuse are also escalating rapidly. Deepfake videos, fabricated audio recordings, cyber fraud, identity

theft, fake news, and digital blackmail are increasingly being facilitated through AI technologies. Smartphones have become the most accessible and effective medium for carrying out such activities.

Today, even an ordinary smartphone enables individuals to use AI-powered applications to create manipulated images and videos, disseminate misleading information, or perpetrate cybercrimes. Adolescents and young adults, who often possess technical proficiency but lack ethical maturity and adequate guidance,

may unknowingly—or in pursuit of quick financial gains—become involved in such activities.



The adverse effects of excessive smartphone use, particularly on children and adolescents, have alarmed societies across the globe.

Therefore, alongside the promotion of AI and smartphone usage, it is imperative to provide comprehensive education in digital ethics, human values, and legal responsibilities. Technology must remain an instrument for the advancement of humanity, not a force

of destruction. In this context, the following observation assumes profound significance: "Science without wisdom becomes a cause of destruction, whereas guided by wisdom, the same science becomes a blessing for humanity."

India, too, requires a broad national discourse on this issue. As the country with the world's largest youth population and as a nation steadily progressing towards becoming a developed economy, India must establish a harmonious balance between technological advancement and human values. If India aspires to fulfill its role as a global moral and intellectual leader, its policies must serve as guiding examples not only for the nation but also for the wider world. Several concrete measures can be considered in this direction. First, age limits and time restrictions for smartphone use among children and adolescents should be established. Until a certain age, children should be provided only essential and regulated digital access. Second, cyber literacy and digital ethics should be made compulsory components of school curricula. Children should learn not only how to use technology, but also understand its risks, consequences, and legal implications.

Third, parents should be trained in digital parenting. Merely handing a smartphone to children does not fulfill parental responsibility; guidance, communication, and value-based upbringing are equally essential. Fourth, social media companies must be held accountable. Effective regulation of harmful and obscene content, robust age verification mechanisms, and transparency in algorithms should be ensured. Fifth, greater opportunities for employment, skill development, and constructive engagement should be created for young people so that they are not tempted towards criminal activities in pursuit of quick wealth. Indian culture has always upheld the virtue of moderation. Our sages taught that the true value of any instrument lies in the manner in which it is used. Fire can cook food, but it can also burn down a home; the fault lies not in the fire, but in its misuse. The same principle applies to smartphones.

Today, the need is not to disconnect from the digital world, but to cultivate digital responsibility, cyber literacy, and disciplined usage. Opposing technology is not the solution; rather, integrating technology with ethics, wisdom, and human values offers the only sustainable path forward. Smartphones must remain instruments that serve humanity, not masters that dominate it. In this lies the well-being of individuals, society, and the nation.

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## Father's Legacy: A Lesson Learned Through Loss



FAZILA MUSHTAQ

A father is one of the greatest blessings in child's life. He serves as source of strength, protection, guidance, and unconditional love. Throughout his life, father works tirelessly to provide comfort, security, and opportunities for his family. Often, he sacrifices his own dreams, desires, and personal needs so that his children can enjoy a better future. Yet, many of these sacrifices go unnoticed because fathers rarely speak about their struggles and choose instead to bear their burdens silently.

Almighty Allah emphasizes the importance of parents in the Holy Quran. In Surah Al-Isra (17:23), He commands believers to treat their parents with kindness, respect, and gratitude. This divine instruction highlights the immense value of those who dedicate their lives to the well-being of their children.

A father's journey is filled with challenges and responsibilities. He faces financial pressures, personal hardships, and countless daily struggles, yet



he continues to move forward for the sake of his family. Even during difficult times, he does everything within his power to fulfill the needs of his children and protect them from worry. His love is often not expressed through words but through his hard work, sacrifices, and unwavering support.

Beyond providing financial support, a father plays a crucial role in shaping the character and personality of his children. He teaches important life lessons such as honesty, responsibility, perseverance, and respect for others. Through his actions and behavior, children learn how to face challenges, make decisions, and overcome difficulties. A father's encour-

agement gives confidence during times of failure, while his guidance helps children stay on the right path. Even the smallest moments spent with him, sharing a meal, having a conversation, or receiving words of advice, often become precious memories that remain in a person's heart forever.

However, the true value of a father is often realized only after he is gone. When a father becomes a memory, his absence creates a void that cannot easily be filled. At first, life may seem unchanged, but with time, the reality of his absence becomes more apparent. Moments that once involved seeking his advice, sharing achievements, or discussing problems become pain-

ful reminders that the person who always understood and supported us is no longer present.

The emotional impact of losing a father extends far beyond grief. It changes the way a person views life and relationships. The feeling of security that a father provides is difficult to replace. Many people find themselves remembering his words during difficult moments and wishing they could hear his voice one more time. The memories of his care, discipline, and encouragement become a source of strength that helps them continue moving forward despite the pain of loss.

As children grow older, they begin to recognize the countless sacrifices their father made throughout his life. They understand the strength, protection, and guidance he provided. The lessons he taught, the values he instilled, and the love he shared continue to influence their lives long after his passing. His character becomes a model that inspires them to become better individuals and responsible members of society.

In today's fast-paced world, people are often busy with their studies, careers, and personal goals. As a result, they may unintentionally overlook the efforts and sacrifices of their parents. It is important to express love, gratitude, and respect to our fathers while they are still with us. A few

kind words, spending quality time together, or simply acknowledging their efforts can mean more to them than we realize. Appreciating a father during his lifetime is one of the greatest ways to honor the love and dedication he has shown throughout the years.

The loss of a father leaves a wound that never completely heals. Although time may help people cope with the pain, it cannot erase the memories. A father's legacy lives on through the principles he taught, the sacrifices he made, and the love he left behind. His presence may no longer be physical, but his influence remains alive in the hearts and minds of his children.

Note: losing a father is one of the greatest losses a person can experience. It teaches the true meaning of love, sacrifice, and gratitude.

Most importantly, it reminds us to appreciate and cherish our parents while they are still with us, because many people only realize a father's true worth when he becomes a cherished memory. The greatest tribute we can pay to our fathers is not only to remember them after they are gone but also to honor them through our actions, respect them during their lifetime, and carry forward the values they worked so hard to instill in us.

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■ Karbala

# The Eternal Philosophy Of Truth, Justice And Human Dignity.



DR RIZWAN RUMI

Every day is Ashura and every land is Karbala." This timeless expression captures the enduring spirit of an event that transcended the boundaries of history and entered the realm of eternal moral consciousness. More than thirteen centuries have passed since the tragedy of Karbala unfolded on the plains of Iraq, yet its message continues to illuminate hearts, inspire movements for justice, and challenge humanity to stand firm in the face of oppression.

Karbala was not merely a historical battle fought between two opposing forces. It was a profound moral confrontation between truth and falsehood, justice and tyranny, conscience and expediency. It was a defining moment in which a small group of believers, led by Imam Husayn ibn Ali (RA), chose sacrifice over submission and principle over survival. In doing so, they transformed a seemingly tragic defeat into one of history's greatest moral victories.

The significance of Karbala cannot be understood solely through the lens of military conflict. The battlefield itself was small, the numbers limited, and the duration brief. Yet its impact has echoed across centuries because the struggle represented universal values that speak to all humanity. Karbala is not remembered because of the clash of swords; it is remembered because of the triumph of conviction over coercion and faith over fear.

To understand Karbala, one must first understand the moral legacy that culminated in that moment. It was a legacy shaped by the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and embodied in the lives of his family. The principles that guided Imam Husayn were not born on the day of Ashura; they were inherited from a tradition rooted in justice, compassion, patience, and unwavering devotion to truth.

Imam Ali ibn Abi Talib (RA), the father of Imam Husayn, remains one of history's greatest examples of justice and integrity. His governance, sermons, and personal conduct demonstrated that leadership is a trust rather than a privilege. He taught that power without justice is oppression and that truth must never be sacrificed for political gain. His famous counsel to governors and officials emphasized fairness, accountability, and compassion toward all people regardless of status or background.

The spirit of justice that characterized Imam Ali became one of the foundational pillars of Karbala. Imam Husayn's refusal to legitimize tyranny reflected the same commitment to moral responsibility that his father had exemplified throughout his life. In Karbala, the principles of justice were not merely preached; they were lived and ultimately defended through sacrifice.

Alongside justice stood another virtue embodied by Imam Hasan ibn Ali (RA): patience and wisdom. Imam Hasan understood the complexities of political realities and the importance of preserving the welfare of the Muslim community. His decisions demonstrated remarkable restraint and foresight. Through patience, he safeguarded lives and prevented further bloodshed during a period of intense turmoil.

His life teaches that courage is not always expressed through confrontation. Sometimes courage lies in restraint, endurance, and the ability to bear personal hardship for the greater good. Imam Hasan's example reminds humanity that wisdom and patience are not signs of weakness but manifestations of strength guided by principle.

These virtues of justice and patience found their ultimate expression in Imam Husayn. When confronted with the demand to pledge



allegiance to a ruler whose conduct contradicted the ethical foundations of Islam, Imam Husayn faced a momentous choice. He could submit and secure personal safety, or he could uphold truth and risk everything.

**He chose the latter.** His decision was not motivated by a desire for political power or worldly authority. Had power been his objective, he would have accepted compromise. Instead, he recognized that silence in the face of injustice would legitimize wrongdoing and erode the moral foundations of the community. His stand was therefore not for personal gain but for the preservation of truth, justice, and

courage commands lasting respect. Tyrants may control institutions, armies, and wealth, yet they cannot extinguish the power of a righteous idea. Karbala demonstrates that ideas grounded in justice possess an enduring vitality that transcends generations.

The message of Karbala extends far beyond a specific historical context. It offers timeless lessons for every society and every age. In a world still marked by injustice, inequality, corruption, and violence, Karbala remains profoundly relevant. It challenges individuals and communities to examine their own moral responsibilities.

The spirit of Karbala asks difficult questions. Will we remain silent when confronted with injustice? Will we sacrifice principles for convenience? Will we choose comfort over conscience? These questions are as relevant today as they were in the

seventh century. Karbala teaches that faith is not confined to rituals and ceremonies. True faith demands ethical commitment. It requires believers to uphold justice, defend the vulnerable, speak truth to power, and resist oppression in all its forms. The legacy of Imam Husayn reminds humanity that spirituality and social responsibility are inseparable.

At its core, Karbala is a lesson in human dignity. Imam Husayn demonstrated that dignity is preserved not through worldly success but through moral steadfastness. Even in the face of overwhelming adversity, he refused to surrender his principles. His example teaches that honor lies not in victory at any cost but in remaining faithful to truth regardless of consequences.

This message has inspired countless individuals throughout history. Reformers, scholars, activists, and ordinary people have drawn strength from the example of Karbala. Whenever people have struggled against injustice, they have found in Imam

Husayn's sacrifice a source of moral inspiration and courage.

Yet Karbala is not merely a story of resistance; it is also a story of hope. It reminds humanity that darkness is never permanent. Even when oppression appears dominant, truth retains its power. The sacrifice of Imam Husayn demonstrates that righteousness may face trials, but it can never be extinguished.

The annual remembrance of Ashura is therefore much more than an act of historical recollection. It is a renewal of moral commitment. It invites believers to reflect upon their responsibilities toward justice, compassion, and integrity. It encourages societies to cultivate the values that Imam Husayn defended with his life.

In an age characterized by rapid change and moral uncertainty, the lessons of Karbala remain remarkably relevant. The world continues to need leaders who embody justice, individuals who practice patience, and communities willing to defend truth. The examples of Imam Ali, Imam Hasan, and Imam Husayn provide a moral framework capable of guiding humanity through contemporary challenges.

Ali teaches us how to govern ourselves and society with justice. Hasan teaches us how to endure hardship with wisdom and patience. Husayn teaches us that some truths are so sacred that they must be defended regardless of personal cost. Together, their lives form a comprehensive philosophy of ethical living rooted in faith and moral responsibility.

The tragedy of Karbala transformed mortality into immortality. What appeared to be a defeat became an everlasting victory of principles over power. The martyrs did not merely leave behind memories; they left behind a moral legacy that continues to shape human consciousness.

Ultimately, Karbala stands as one of history's greatest affirmations of the power of truth. It reminds

*The message of Karbala extends far beyond a specific historical context. It offers timeless lessons for every society and every age. In a world still marked by injustice, inequality, corruption, and violence, Karbala remains profoundly relevant. It challenges individuals and communities to examine their own moral responsibilities.*



physical existence. Their objective was not merely to defeat an opponent but to awaken the conscience of humanity.

This is why Karbala continues to resonate across generations. The sacrifice of Imam Husayn transformed martyrdom into a powerful symbol of resistance against oppression. His stand became a reminder that human dignity cannot be purchased through compromise and that faith sometimes requires the willingness to bear immense sacrifice.

The sands of Karbala absorbed the blood of martyrs, but they also gave birth to an enduring philosophy. Every martyr became a living testimony that truth possesses a power greater than force. The apparent victors of the battlefield faded into history, while the memory of Imam Husayn continues to inspire millions across the world.

This phenomenon reveals one of the deepest truths of human civilization: power may command obedience for a time, but only moral

humanity that righteousness is not measured by worldly triumphs but by fidelity to moral principles before Allah. The courage of Imam Husayn and his companions teaches that even when confronted with overwhelming opposition, one must never abandon justice, dignity, and faith.

As long as humanity values truth over falsehood, justice over tyranny, and conscience over convenience, the message of Karbala will remain alive. It will continue to illuminate hearts, inspire moral courage, and remind the world that the light of righteousness can never be extinguished by the darkness of oppression.

Karbala was not merely an event in history. It was, and remains, an eternal call to humanity—a call to live with justice, endure with patience, stand with truth, and walk the path of faith with unwavering dignity before Allah.

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## LG Sinha Chairs 36Th

for veterinary education, research and advanced clinical services.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the University's incredible journey from local roots to global aspirations, praising its sustained growth in academics, research, innovation, entrepreneurship, and international partnerships.

He noted that the SKUAST-Kashmir's transformative initiatives have the potential to position it as a leading, innovation-driven, and globally engaged agricultural university.

The Lieutenant Governor also directed the Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, to ensure that meetings of the University Council are convened regularly, at least twice a year, for timely review of academic and administrative matters.

Presenting the University Report, Vice Chancellor Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai highlighted SKUAST-Kashmir's remarkable transformation from a regionally focused institution into a nationally recognized university with a clear vision of emerging as a globally competitive institution in agricultural and allied sciences. He also shared the University's vision of excellence in education, research, innovation and societal impact.

The Vice Chancellor informed the meeting that the University has made significant gains in national rankings, developed the largest startup ecosystem among higher educational institutions in Jammu Kashmir, and recorded 123 Intellectual Property Rights including patents, trademarks and designs, reflecting a strong culture of innovation and translational research. Nearly 30 percent of the University's students now come from outside Jammu Kashmir, demonstrating its growing national outreach and academic reputation.

## J&K On Maximum Alert

for non-convoy vehicles. The last vehicle from Jammu towards the Valley via the Navyug Tunnel will be allowed at 3 pm, while traffic from Mir Bazar towards Anantnag will stop at 4 pm. Similar restrictions have been imposed at Pantha Chowk, Sumbal, Wayil, Narbal and other key junctions along the Yatra routes.

For vehicles travelling from Jammu towards Kashmir Valley, cut-off timings have been fixed at Nagrota (12 noon), Jakhemi-Udhampur (1 pm), Chanderkote (2 pm) and Banihal (3 pm).

Officials said the restrictions are aimed at ensuring the safe movement of Yatra convoys and minimising congestion along the national highway and pilgrimage routes. They urged commuters to follow traffic advisories and cooperate with security personnel during the pilgrimage period—(KNO)

## J&K Police Top Brass

premises, the DGP Prabhat was also seen briefly holding an Alam, a moment noticed by many participants present at the venue.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir VK Birdi, IG Security Sujit Kumar, Special Director General of Police (Coordination) SJM Gillani, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Central Kashmir Range Rajiv Omprakash Pande, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar Dr. G V Sundeep Chakravarthy, DySP Headquarters Srinagar Syed Sleet Shah and other senior officers remained present along the procession route, reviewed arrangements and interacted with mourners.

Among the officers present, DySP Headquarters Srinagar Syed Sleet Shah was seen interacting with mourners during the procession, reflecting the police's outreach and engagement with participants on the occasion.

Senior police officers distributed drinking water among mourners from a facilitation stall established by the police at MA Road. The initiative received a positive response from devotees, particularly amid the warm weather conditions during the procession.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the procession, IGP Kashmir V.K. Birdi said the Jammu and Kashmir Police had made comprehensive arrangements to ensure the smooth, peaceful and dignified conduct of the 8th Muharram procession.

"The police, volunteers and organisers worked in close coordination to facilitate the procession. Simultaneously, measures were taken to ensure smooth traffic flow in other parts of Srinagar and prevent inconvenience to the general public," IGP Birdi said.

Describing Muharram as an occasion of profound significance, the IGP said the sacrifice of Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions continues to inspire people across the world.

"This is a solemn occasion. We remember the supreme sacrifice of Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions. Their message teaches us humanity, duty, sacrifice and tolerance. We salute these values and strive to imbibe them in our lives. The message of Imam Hussain (AS) is as relevant for us as it is for the entire humanity," he said.

Meanwhile, SSP Srinagar Dr. G.V. Sundeep Chakravarthy said extensive security, traffic and civic arrangements had been implemented along the traditional route from Guru Bazar to Dalgate and Imamabada.

"The Srinagar Police, in coordination with paramilitary forces and the traffic police, has meticulously planned security arrangements from the starting point to the end point of the procession. Drone surveillance is also being used to enhance security and provide comfort to mourners as well as the general public," he said.

The SSP said similar elaborate arrangements have already been planned for the upcoming 10th Muharram procession.

Meanwhile, mourners and members of the Shia

administration praised the Jammu and Kashmir Police, district administration and other departments for the extensive arrangements made for the procession. They appreciated the security deployment, traffic regulation, drone surveillance, sanitation measures, medical facilities, public service camps and drinking water distribution points established along the route.

"The coordination between police, volunteers and organisers ensured that the procession was conducted peacefully and without disruption, while also minimising inconvenience to the general public," said Adil Bashir, a mourner from Bemina Srinagar.

The mourners also welcomed the participation of senior police officers and the presence of the DGP at the venue, describing it as a positive outreach effort that strengthened public confidence and reflected the administration's commitment towards facilitating religious events in a peaceful and respectful atmosphere—(KNO)

## Kashmir's GI QR

quality of products such as Pashmina and Kani shawls, Sozni embroidery, hand-knotted carpets and other GI registered crafts. By scanning the QR code, consumers can trace a product back to the artisan or institution that created it, ensuring transparency and preventing counterfeiting.

The spokesperson said thousands of handicraft products have already been labelled under the initiative, enhancing consumer confidence, expanding market access and supporting export growth.

Congratulating the technical teams of PTQCC and IICT, Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Sh. Mussarat Islam, said the recognition reflects the Department's commitment to preserving Kashmir's rich craft heritage. He added that the QR code system provides direct visibility to artisans, helping them connect with buyers and access niche global markets, thereby improving their economic prospects.

The SKOCH Award is a prestigious national recognition honouring innovative initiatives that promote excellence, good governance, and inclusive development.

## Thousands Participate

while others accompanied their parents and elders throughout the route. "Their presence symbolised the transmission of Karbala's message of sacrifice, truth and resilience from one generation to another," said Zainab Zahoor, mother of a three-year-old boy.

The entire city centre wore a distinctly Muharram look. Black flags fluttered from rooftops and market buildings, banners carrying religious messages lined major roads, while Guru Bazar emerged as the focal point of preparations. Dozens of saabels, medical camps and volunteer-run service stalls remained operational throughout the day, offering water, refreshments and assistance to mourners.

Residents lined portions of the route, observing the procession from roadside spaces, while volunteers worked tirelessly to manage crowds and facilitate participants.

A multi-layered security and civic management plan remained in force throughout the observance. Personnel from Jammu & Kashmir Police, CRPF, traffic police and civil administration were deployed across strategic locations. Medical teams, sanitation workers, emergency response units and essential service departments remained on standby to ensure uninterrupted facilities.

Authorities had for the last several days finalised arrangements, including traffic diversions, parking facilities, route management, sanitation drives, healthcare services, drinking water supply and emergency preparedness. The administration also maintained close coordination with Muharram committees, religious organisations and volunteers.

Reviewing the arrangements, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg said the administration and stakeholders were working in complete coordination to ensure peaceful Muharram observances despite simultaneous preparations for the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra and the ongoing tourist season.

"Elaborate arrangements have been made for Muharram processions and gatherings. Public cooperation is crucial to ensuring the smooth conduct of all events," Garg said, while thanking mourners, volunteers, media and various departments for their support.

Prominent Shia cleric Syed Mohammad Masroor Abbas Ansari described the 8th Muharram procession as a "message of humanity" and expressed gratitude to the administration for allowing the traditional procession after decades.

"The LG administration gave us the freedom to hold this mass gathering. We are grateful to them," Ansari said. Referring to the revival of the traditional route after more than three decades, he said the development carried deep emotional and religious significance for the community.

On the upcoming Ashura procession, Ansari appealed to the administration to take what he called a "bold step" by permitting the traditional 10th Muharram procession. "For 35 years, governments could not do this due to bureaucratic pressure. This administration has the courage and strength," he said.

He further urged authorities to allow the traditional Ashura route to culminate at Zadibal, saying it would enable people to exercise their constitutional religious freedom in a peaceful, disciplined and organised manner.

Cleric Aga Syed Mujtaba called for the restoration of the traditional Ashura procession in Srinagar, asserting that the prevailing security environment is conducive to its peaceful conduct.

"The 8th Muharram procession has been observed smoothly for the past three consecutive years, reflecting improved administrative coordination, effective security management and public cooperation. We hope the authorities would extend similar permission for the traditional 10th Muharram procession, allowing devotees to observe their religious practices in a peaceful and disciplined manner," he said.

Several other leaders addressing mourners along the route highlighted the universal message of Karbala, calling for justice, patience, unity and peaceful coexistence while emphasising the values embodied by Imam Hussain (AS).

### MESSAGE FROM THE MOURNERS

Tahir Ali, a mourner from central Kashmir's Budgam district, said, it is not merely a procession, but a journey of remembrance and sacrifice. "People wait throughout the year for this day," he said.

Another participant, Mubashir Hassan, said the gathering reflected both grief and unity. "You can see people from every corner of Kashmir here. The arrangements by volunteers and authorities have helped everything move smoothly," he said.

The traditional 8th Muharram procession along the Guru Bazar-Dalgate route was revived after remaining suspended for more than three decades. Since its restoration, it has once again emerged as one of the largest religious gatherings in Kashmir, attracting thousands of mourners annually.

The procession commemorates the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (AS), his family members and companions in the Battle of Karbala and symbolises the timeless values of sacrifice, justice, truth and resistance against oppression—(KNO)

## Rain, Thunderstorms,

said Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness generally dry weather during mornings and afternoons till June 29, although isolated to scattered places may receive brief spells of rain or thunder-showers accompanied by gusty winds during late afternoon and evening hours.

From June 30 to July 3, a fresh spell of light to moderate rain and thundershowers is expected at many places across the Union Territory, with the possibility of brief intense showers, thunderstorms and gusty winds, it said.

The weather office warned that intense showers could trigger flash floods, mudslides and landslides at isolated locations and advised people to avoid streams, nallahs and vulnerable areas.

Meanwhile, temperatures remained above normal across most parts of Kashmir.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 32 degrees Celsius, 2.8 degrees above normal, while Qazigund registered 31.6 degrees Celsius, 4.2 degrees above normal. Gulmarg recorded 23.2 degrees Celsius and Pahalgam 25.7 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 39.5 degrees Celsius, while Katra registered 36 degrees Celsius. Banihal recorded 30.9 degrees Celsius and Batote 29.1 degrees Celsius.

The Meteorological Department said it was closely monitoring the evolving weather situation and urged residents, tourists and pilgrims to follow official advisories—(KNO)

## J&K Faces 530

not been adequately provided.

The note also flagged environmental risks from waste processing units located near water bodies. It pointed to the Bandipora facility near the Wular Ramsar Wetland, warning that leachate from dumpsites could pollute freshwater sources if not properly managed. It also cited flood-related damage to waste processing facilities at RS Pura and Arnia, indicating a lack of disaster-resilient planning.

On liquid waste management, the report said J&K generates 445.647 million litres of sewage daily, while the installed treatment capacity is 229 MLD, of which only 137.06 MLD is being utilised. It noted a treatment gap of 323.89 MLD and said information on river water quality, sewage-carrying drains, sludge management and other key parameters was not provided.

The Amicus Curiae recommended dedicated protection plans for Dal Lake and Wular Lake, a ban on dumping waste and sewage near water bodies, detailed leachate management reports, and avoiding the establishment of waste treatment facilities near rivers and wetlands. It also urged the UT administration to develop an in-house plan for RDF utilisation instead of transporting waste outside J&K.

The report further sought a detailed status report on industrial effluent management across the Union Territory, including waste generation, treatment facilities, compliance with pollution norms and disposal of untreated industrial waste—(KNO)

## Gulmarg Gondola

emergency responders. The evacuation process continued for several hours before all passengers were safely brought to the ground.

Following the incident, the Jammu and Kashmir Cable Car Corporation suspended operations and initiated an extensive technical inspection of the system. Engineers and experts carried out detailed examinations of the mechanical, electrical, communication, braking and safety components of the cable car network.

As maintenance work continued, the corporation repeatedly extended the closure period, eventually announcing that the Gondola would remain closed until further notice to facilitate comprehensive safety checks and repairs.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir Government on June 10 this year had constituted a high-level committee to probe the circumstances that led to the malfunction. The panel was tasked with examining the technical failure, reviewing maintenance and operational records, assessing compliance with safety protocols and fixing responsibility, if any, for lapses that may have contributed to the incident.

Sources said all mandatory inspections and test runs have now been completed successfully, paving the way for the restoration of services. The final decision regarding reopening is expected after formal approval from the concerned authorities.

The reopening of the Gondola is expected to provide a significant boost to tourism in Gulmarg, which has witnessed a decline in visitor activity following the suspension of operations during the peak summer season—(KNO)

## Frequent Parliamentary

engagement, and welfare initiatives in the Valley.

In the first week of May, the Department-related Standing Committee on Finance, headed by MP Bhartruhari Mahtab, visited Jammu & Kashmir to review key issues such as financial literacy, digitalisation, GST reforms, pension regulation, MSME growth, insurance coverage, and grievance redressal.

Soon after, the Department-related Standing Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs, led by MP Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy, visited Jammu & Kashmir and assessed the progress of Smart City and other urban projects.

The Department-related Standing Committee on Home Affairs, headed by BJP MP Radha Mohan Das Aggarwal, visited Jammu & Kashmir from May 10 to May 15 to discuss various issues. The Department-related Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment also visited the Union Territory in May-June as part of its study tour.

Cutting across party lines, legislators are optimistic that these visits will boost development in Jammu & Kashmir and promote it on the tourism map.

MLA Gulmarg, Farooq Ahmad Shah, termed the visits as positive, saying that parliamentarians can better understand the realities on the ground through firsthand experience.

"When parliamentarians visit J&K and witness the situation themselves, they become ambassadors of Jammu and Kashmir. This is a welcome step and will help project the region in a positive manner," Shah said.

"Once they return, they will carry good impressions of Jammu and Kashmir and encourage others to visit. We are hopeful that this will have a positive impact on tourism and development alike," he said.

Shah, who is also head of J&K Assembly's petition committee, said that these visits also draw the attention of the Central government to the development needs of J&K.

"During these visits, they also examine developmental issues concerning J&K, which are later mentioned in their reports. Once the report is tabled, the concerned ministry has to submit an action-taken report on it," he explained.

Echoing similar views, MLA Udhampur East R.S. Pathania said the visits would prove beneficial for the Union Territory.

"Jammu & Kashmir is getting positive projection through such visits, and it will certainly help," Pathania said—(KNO)

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# Deputy CM conducts public outreach-cum-grievance redress camp at Majalta

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**UDHAMPUR:** Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Wednesday conducted a public outreach-cum-grievance redress camp at Government Higher Secondary School, Majalta, to interact with the local residents, hear their issues and ensure timely redress of the same.



During the camp, former PRI members and local residents projected several demands, including establishment of a Trauma Centre at Manwal, augmentation of drinking water supply, construction and upgradation of roads, construction of Manwal-Pingla Mata road, inclusion of left-out beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, resolution of issues concerning the tribal community and other development-related

matters. While responding to the demands, the Deputy Chief Minister assured the public that all their genuine issues would be addressed in a time-bound manner. Several grievances were resolved on the spot by issuing necessary directions to the concerned officers. He also instructed the officers to organise awareness camps to sensitise the people about various government welfare schemes

and initiatives so that the eligible beneficiaries can avail the benefits. The Deputy Chief Minister said that the primary objective of conducting such outreach programmes is to resolve day-to-day public issues at the grassroots level through direct interaction with the people. He asked the officers to work with dedication and sincerity to address the genuine public grievances within their respective

departments. Reiterating the government's unwavering commitment to people-centric governance, he said that the administration led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah remains focusing on delivering good governance and addressing the public concerns on priority. He directed the concerned officers to record all demands and ensure their prompt redress. He further instructed the depart-

ments to take government policies, welfare schemes and developmental programmes to the doorstep of the people and ensure their effective implementation.

The Deputy Chief Minister also acknowledged the support of the Government of India, led by the Prime Minister, for providing substantial funds to Jammu and Kashmir for developmental works, which, he said, are contributing significantly to the region's progress.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister also conducted an on-site inspection of the ongoing development works in Majalta, Udhampur to review progress and ensure quality execution. He had exclusive interaction with the officials and the residents regarding the welfare and development issues concerning the area.

# SBSP leaders welcome Rajya Sabha MP Mithlesh Kumar in Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK



**SRINAGAR:** Vivek Bali, State President, Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) Jammu and Kashmir, along with other party leaders, extended a warm welcome to Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament Mithlesh Kumar during his visit to Srinagar on Tuesday.

The welcome was led by Vivek Bali, accompanied by Owais Dar, Central Incharge Kashmir, Mohammad Yousuf, and Mudassir Dar. During the meeting, the leaders held detailed discussions on various social, political, and developmental issues concerning the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Vivek Bali highlighted the

importance of strengthening the party's presence at the grassroots level and ensuring that the voices of the people are effectively represented. He said that the visit of Rajya Sabha MP Mithlesh Kumar would further energize party workers and help strengthen organizational activities across the region.

The leaders also exchanged views on public welfare initiatives, youth empowerment, employment

opportunities, and the need for inclusive development. They reiterated the party's commitment to addressing the concerns of common people and working towards social justice and equality.

Rajya Sabha MP Mithlesh Kumar appreciated the efforts of the SBSP team in Kashmir and encouraged party workers to continue engaging with the public and addressing their issues with dedication and sincerity.

# Sakeena Itoo reviews progress on SSH OPD complex, GMC Srinagar MFC



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, Wednesday reviewed the progress on construction of OPD Complex of Super Speciality Hospital (SSH) Srinagar and Multi Facility Centre (MFC) of Government Medical College Srinagar as well as additional 50-bedded hospital building of SDH Pahalgam here at Civil Secretariat.

MLA Pahalgam Altaf Ahmad Wani; Principal GMC Srinagar; Director Health Services Kashmir; Director Finance/Director Planning Health and Medical Education and other senior officers of health and medical education department were also present in the meeting.

During the review meeting, the Minister took stock of the progress achieved on each project. She directed the concerned officers and executing agencies to expedite the pace of work and ensure completion of all pending civil works within the stipulated timelines.

Emphasizing accountability in execution of public projects, the Minister said that these initiatives are being undertaken with public funds and are aimed at improving the

healthcare services for the people. She asserted that any delay in completion of such projects adversely affects the public welfare and, therefore, must be avoided.

Reviewing the construction of the 50-bedded additional building at Pahalgam, the Minister directed the concerned authorities to finalize the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and commence the remaining works without delay. She observed that Pahalgam is one of the most prominent tourist destinations in Jammu and Kashmir and also serves as the base camp for the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. She stressed the need for a well-equipped healthcare facility in the area to cater to both residents, visitors as well as devotees.

The Minister set a target of March 2027 for completion of the hospital building and directed the concerned agencies to ensure that the facility is made fully functional and operational.

Earlier, Director Health Services Kashmir informed the meeting that the project involves an estimated cost of Rs 19.90 crore, out of which civil works worth Rs 12.40 crore have already been tendered. He added that the hospital, once

operational will provide a range of essential healthcare services and facilities to the people of the area.

While reviewing the Multi-Tasking Facility Centre (MFC) of GMC Srinagar, the Minister directed that all civil works be completed by the end of July 2026. She also instructed the concerned officers to pursue necessary approvals from the Government of India for installation of additional facilities and infrastructure required for the centre.

Reviewing the progress of works related to the Super Speciality Hospital and other healthcare infrastructure projects, the Minister reiterated that delays in the healthcare sector are unacceptable and called for close monitoring of all ongoing projects.

She directed the Health Department to maintain regular oversight of project implementation. She asked for ensuring that infrastructure is developed strictly in accordance with healthcare requirements and approved standards. She also stressed the need for proper planning, coordination and adherence to guidelines in the execution of all health sector projects to ensure timely completion and optimal utilization of resources.

# HK Hyundai Announces Hyundai Smart Care Clinic

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR :** HK Hyundai announces the Hyundai Smart Care Clinic 24th June-8th July. Trust. Pride. Delight. As Hyundai celebrates 30 glorious years in India, Hyundai Motor India Limited (HML) announced its nationwide 'Hyundai Smart Care Clinic', extending its customer-first service experience across India, from bustling metropolitan centers to the breathtaking landscapes of Kashmir.

During the announcement, Mr. Umar Yaqoob, Managing Director, HK Hyundai said "Built on Hyundai's 30-year

remain in optimal condition, enabling them to navigate every journey with confidence—whether through the bustling city streets or the scenic valleys of Kashmir. Our focus remains on delivering enhanced convenience, transparency, and a truly rewarding ownership experience."

The nationwide Hyundai Smart Care Clinic offers a wide range of benefits to the customers such as, Complimentary 30-point vehicle health check-up covering key systems such as engine, brakes, electrical system and suspension • Up to 30% benefit



journey in India and guided by the values of trust, pride, and progress, the Hyundai Smart Care Clinic highlights HML's commitment to improving the customer ownership experience through excellent service and innovation. Running from 24 June 2026 to 8 July 2026, the program will be held at our dealership and other Hyundai service centers across the country, reinforcing Hyundai's focus on quality service, transparency, and customer satisfaction.

Commenting on this customer-centric initiative, Mr. Shakel Ahmad Rather, Service Manager, HK Hyundai, said, "At HK Hyundai, we place our customers at the heart of everything we do, much like the warmth and hospitality that define the spirit of Kashmir. The Hyundai Smart Care Clinic reflects our customer-first philosophy, offering proactive vehicle care and a comprehensive service experience. Through this initiative of HML, we aim to strengthen customer trust by ensuring their vehicles

on Extended Warranty plans • Up to 30% benefit on Mechanical Labour • 10% benefit on Mechanical & Maintenance Parts, Up to 30% benefit on select Car Care Services • Up to 30% benefit on Roadside Assistance package, 10% benefit on Bluelink subscription services.

With the monsoon season expected to arrive across several parts of the country, the Hyundai Smart Care Clinic is especially timed to help customers prepare their vehicles for wet-weather driving conditions. Beyond service benefits, this initiative encourages customers to undertake timely maintenance and essential repairs, contributing to better vehicle health, improved longevity, and an enhanced driving experience. We encourage and invite all customers to take advantage of the Hyundai Smart Care Clinic at HK Hyundai and experience the difference through our expert service, genuine care, and commitment to customer satisfaction.(PR)

# JKWS Organizes Free First Aid, Refreshment Camp on 8th Muharram

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** In a heartfelt gesture of community service and remembrance, JK Welfare Society Wednesday organized a Free First Aid & Refreshment Camp at Karan Nagar, Srinagar, on the solemn occasion of 8th Muharram. The camp was dedicated to the cherished memory of Late Umar Yaseen S/o Mohammad Yaseen Shah, resident of Nowgam Bypass, Srinagar, whose legacy of kindness, generosity, and service continues to inspire many.



The humanitarian initiative was conducted under the guidance and support of Mr. Bin Jabar and Panda Kulhad Chai, an establishment owned by the late Umar Yaseen. The camp was set up to serve mourners, devotees, and members

of the public participating in Muharram observances, providing free first-aid assistance, drinking water, refreshments, and other essential support throughout the day.

Muharram is a time of reflection, sacrifice, and solidarity, and the camp embodied these values by extending care and assistance to those in need. Volunteers of JK Welfare Society worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth

functioning of the camp and to provide timely support to visitors. Their dedication and commitment reflected the spirit of selfless service that remains central to the mission of the organization.

The event witnessed the participation of several prominent personalities, social workers, community leaders, and well-wishers who appreciated the efforts of JK Welfare Society in promoting public welfare and

humanitarian values. The Society extends its heartfelt gratitude to Honorable Mubarak Gul, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir, for his gracious presence and encouragement. His participation added significance to the occasion and served as a source of motivation for volunteers and organizers alike.

JK Welfare Society also expresses sincere appreciation to all dignitaries, supporters, volunteers, and members of the community who contributed to the success of the event. Their cooperation and unwavering support played a vital role in making the initiative meaningful and impactful.

A special prayer gathering was held in remembrance of Late Umar Yaseen, during which participants collectively prayed

for the eternal peace of his soul. Following the joint prayers, a certificate distribution ceremony was organized to recognize and honor the valuable contributions of volunteers and individuals who supported the camp. The certificates served as a token of appreciation for their dedication toward community service and humanitarian causes.

Speaking on the occasion, members of JK Welfare Society reiterated their commitment to serving society through welfare initiatives, health awareness programs, relief activities, and community outreach efforts. The Society emphasized that acts of service performed in memory of noble individuals help preserve their legacy and inspire future generations to contribute positively to society.

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2. Government Order No. 103-JK (SWD) of 2023 dated: 28.04.2023
3. PO- ICDS/Misc/130-140 dated:-19-06-2026

Approval has been accorded, vide Joint Director Poshan's letter no. MD/POSHAN/22200-22208 dated 18-06-2026 for filling up of various vacancies of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) in Anganwadi Centres of POSHAN Project Chadoora, as per the details given below:

Sr. No.	Name of Project	Name of Post	No. of Post
1	Poshan Project Chadoora	Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers)	04
		Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers)	05
Total			09 Posts

Applications are invited in the Prescribed Performa in Annexure "A" from the eligible candidates for engagement as Anganwadi Worker and Anganwadi Helper on Honorarium basis for aforementioned posts of Anganwadi Centres. The important dates/details with regard to the posts are as under:

- a) Date of commencement for submission of application forms 27-06-2026
- b) Last date for submission of applications is 17-07-2026
- c) Annexure B- Name of the Post, Location/Ward, Qualification and Criteria for selection
- d) Annexure C- Affidavit

**ANNEXURE 'B'**  
**Detail of Vacant Posts (AWW/AWH) along with name and location of AWC.**

S.No.	NAME OF ANGANWADI CENTRE	WARD No. with name of Panchayat	NAME OF POST	No. of Post
1	2	3	4	5
1	Yarikalan "B"	Ward No. 04 Yarikalan	Anganwadi Worker	1
2	Chadoora "D"	Ward No. 11 Chadoora MC	Anganwadi Worker	1
3	Lung Panzan	Ward No. 08 Gopalisaf	Anganwadi Worker	1
4	Chan Mohalla "A"	Ward No. 04 Jabbad	Anganwadi Worker	1
5	Shumnag "B"	Ward No. 03 Shumnag	Anganwadi Helper	1
6	Sogam "A"	Ward No. 02 Sogam	Anganwadi Helper	1
7	Bugam "D"	Ward No. 10 Bugam	Anganwadi Helper	1
8	Surasyar "D"	Ward No. 01 Surasyar - B	Anganwadi Helper	1
9	Brenwar "B"	Ward No. 01 Jabbad	Anganwadi Helper	1

**Eligibility:**

**A. For Anganwadi Workers**

1. The candidate must be domicile of the UT of J&K.
2. Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be eligible.
3. The candidate should be a resident of the electoral ward where Anganwadi Centre is situated. Name in the voter list for the ward shall be considered as the proof of residence of the candidate. In case the name of the candidate appears in the voter list along with her parents, then she must provide certificate of being un-married issued by the concerned Tehsildar. Where ever, there is any dispute as to residence for any reason, then a residence proof certifying the ward of residence from the concerned SDM/ACR shall be considered.
4. Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Worker shall be 10+2 and maximum graduation. In case no 10+2 pass candidate is available in the ward, 10+2 pass candidate from the adjoining ward shall be considered which would require prior approval of Mission Director, Mission POSHAN.
5. In case suitable candidate is not available for adjoining ward, candidate from the nearest ward within the Panchayat can be considered subject to the approval of the MD, Mission POSHAN.
6. Weightage shall be given on the basis of marks obtained in 10+2 and selection shall be done purely on merit basis and not other criteria to be considered.
7. In case of tie in merit of the eligible candidate, candidate with higher age will be preferred.
8. Candidate with qualification higher than graduation shall not be considered.

**B. Aananwadi Helpers**

1. The selection of Helper shall be restricted to the electoral ward where Anganwadi Centre is located.
2. Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be eligible.
3. The candidate must be domicile of the UT of J&K.
4. Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Helper shall be matriculation.
5. In case no matriculate candidate available in the ward, candidates with qualification not less than 8th standard shall be considered.
6. The committee shall select the most destitute/needy married woman of the ward as helper from amongst those who fulfil the qualification criteria. In case no married candidate is available, unmarried candidate may be considered.
7. In case eligible candidate is available within the family of retiring AAWs/AWHs, the said candidate shall qualify for additional two percent points.

**Document Verification**

- 1) The candidate who is shortlisted for Document verification will be required to appear for Document Verification along-with the original documents as well as self-attested Photostat copy of each document as per the Advertisement Notification. The candidate must be in possession of the prescribed academic qualification and other document like Domicile Certificate, on or before the last date of submission of application form.
- a) Marks sheet(s)/Diploma/Degree of the qualification prescribed for the post as per Advertisement Notification.
- b) Date of Birth/ Matriculate Certificate.
- c) Domicile Certificate.
- d) Unmarried Certificate (where required)
- 2) Candidates have to bring two passport size recent color photographs and one original Photo ID proof. Photo ID Proof can be:
  - i) Aadhaar Card
  - ii) Voter ID card.
- 3) The candidate who are supposed to furnish various certificate issued by or before the prescribed cut-off date, shall be required to produce them at the time of Document Verification or as may be sought by the Committee; in case of failure, the committee shall take necessary decision which shall be final.

**ANNEXURE C**  
 All applicants to submit affidavit stating following facts:

1. All Documents submitted are correct, without any mismatch, scanning, duplicate or fallacious in nature. If found incorrect or in any of the above stated situation the candidature of deponent may be cancelled and liable to action under law.
2. Maximum qualification is Graduation for vacancy of Anganwadi worker and Class X for Anganwadi Helper and this is as per facts and onus of proving it to be true lies with the deponent.
3. The deponent has read the HR policy no. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated: 30.11.2022 and is well versed with all salient features of the policy and shall be applicable to the deponent in case of selection as Anganwadi worker/ Anganwadi Helper.

No.-CDPC/Poshan/Chd/2026/Adv/ 673-684  
 Date: 24-06-2026  
 DIPC-2484-26  
 DT: 24/06/2026  
 CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER  
 CHADOORA

# Ronaldo vs Messi FIFA World Cup goals: Why the 'weak opposition' argument doesn't hold up

IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** Cristiano Ronaldo made a strong comeback from the poor start in the FIFA World Cup 2026 and scored two crucial goals against Uzbekistan. The Portugal captain made history by becoming the first player to score in six different FIFA World Cups when he found the net against Uzbekistan at the 2026 tournament.

While many celebrated the remarkable milestone, others were quick to dismiss it, arguing that the goal came against a lower-ranked opponent.

But does that 'weak opposition' criticism really stand up when compared with Lionel Messi's World Cup scoring record? The answer is not quite.

Throughout his World Cup career, Ronaldo has scored a total of 10 goals, which came against Spain, Ghana, Iran, North Korea, Morocco, and now Uzbekistan. His most celebrated World Cup performance remains the stunning hat-trick against Spain in 2018, a match that showcased his ability to deliver against one of the strongest teams in international football.

**Ronaldo's World Cup Goals by Opponent**

- Spain - 3 goals
- Ghana - 2 goals
- Uzbekistan - 2 goals
- Iran - 1 goal
- North Korea - 1 goal
- Morocco - 1 goal

On the other side, Messi's World Cup scoring record follows a similar pattern. The Argentine



superstar, who is the tournament's top scorer with 18 goals, has scored multiple goals against lower-ranked sides like Algeria, Nigeria, and Austria, while also finding the net against Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Montenegro, and Australia.

Like Ronaldo, Messi has also produced decisive moments against some of the world's best teams, including France, Croatia, and the Netherlands, which he faced in the 2022 World Cup, in which Argentina ended the trophy drought.

**Messi's World Cup Goals by Opponent**

- Algeria - 3 goals
- Nigeria - 3 goals
- Austria - 2 goals
- France - 2 goals
- Australia - 1 goal
- Bosnia and Herzegovina - 1 goal
- Croatia - 1 goal
- Iran - 1 goal
- Mexico - 1 goal
- Montenegro - 1 goal
- Netherlands - 1 goal

Saudi Arabia - 1 goal. The reality is that World Cups are designed to bring together nations from every corner of the football world. The tournament has always featured emerging football nations. Every great goalscorer in World Cup history has benefited from that reality, including Pelé, who scored against Wales and Mexico. Miroslav Klose scored against Saudi Arabia. Brazil's Ronaldo scored against China and Costa Rica, but that does not demolish their authority.

While the criticism of Ronaldo's goal against Uzbekistan is unfair, there is another World Cup statistic that has followed him throughout his career. Despite appearing in six World Cups, Ronaldo has never scored in a knockout-stage match at the tournament. That remains one of the most surprising records in football, given his reputation as a big-game player.

Messi's World Cup story is very different. The Argentine not only won the 2022 World Cup but also scored in the Round of 16, quarter-finals, semi-finals, and final, becoming the first player to score in every stage of a World Cup knockout run from the group phase to the final.

Ronaldo supporters can point to a record that may never be broken. Scoring in six separate World Cups requires extraordinary longevity, consistency, and dedication. Messi supporters can point to a World Cup winner's medal.

Both arguments carry weight. What does not carry much weight is using Uzbekistan to discredit Ronaldo's latest achievement. If goals against smaller nations suddenly do not count, then the same standard would have to be applied across football history, including parts of Messi's own World Cup scoring record.

# Rugby Premier League: Bengaluru Bravehearts seal semifinal spot in Season 2

IAN S

**HYDERABAD:** Bengaluru Bravehearts defeated Kolkata Bonga Tigers 26-21 in a league match in Season 2 of the Rugby Premier League and qualified for the semi-finals on the ninth day of the competition at the GMC Balyogi Athletic Stadium, Gachibowli in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

Bengaluru Bravehearts made a flying start as Jonas Mikalcius crossed over within minutes, but Kolkata Bonga Tigers responded immediately through Vuviviwa Naduvalo on the left wing. Ngarohi McGarvey restored Bengaluru's advantage before Naduvalo struck again to level the scores. Mikalcius then broke through the Tigers' defence to give the Bravehearts the lead at half-time.

Kolkata looked to fight back after the break, but a loose pass was inter-



cepted by Shilton van Wyk, who extended Bengaluru's advantage. The Bravehearts maintained their defensive intensity and kept the Tigers at bay, although Naduvalo completed his hat-trick with a brilliant individual effort. Bengaluru controlled possession in the closing stages to secure a hard-fought 26-21 victory.

Later in the day, Delhi Redz are set to take on the Mumbai Dreamers, while Chennai Bulls will face the Hyderabad Heroes in the last match of the day.

Earlier on Tuesday, Bengaluru Bravehearts dominated from the outset as Zain Davids and Akuila Rokolisoa gave them an early lead in the men's section. Shilton van

Wyk, Ngarohi McGarvey, Ganesh Majhi, and Mago-mederassul Magomedov added further tries, while Ben Lasike and Guillaume Bouche replied for Mumbai Dreamers in a comfortable Bravehearts victory.

Hyderabad Heroes made a bright start with Diego Ardao finishing off a flowing move to open the scoring. Patrick Odongo attempted to respond for Delhi Redz but was forced off injured, before Elias Hancock levelled the scores.

Taitaifono Tavita restored the Heroes' lead before half-time, and a clever kick allowed Ravuama Seruvakula to extend the advantage after the break. Wolfram Hacker added another try as Hyderabad took control. Late scores from Lennox Wiese and Alasio Naduva brought Delhi back into the contest, but the Heroes held on for victory.

# Inter-State Athletics: Anushka Yadav smashes National hammer throw record with 67.02m

IAN S

**BHUBANESWAR:** Teenager Anushka Yadav stole the spotlight on the opening day of the 56th National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships 2026 in Bhubaneswar, shattering the women's hammer throw national record and securing qualification for the 2026 Asian Games with a sensational performance at the Kalinga Stadium on Wednesday.

The 18-year-old produced a series of impressive throws. She started with 62.07m, easily surpassing the Asian Games qualifying mark of



61.72m. She then improved to 65.64m before achieving the best throw of her career on her final attempt, sending the hammer to 67.02m.

This effort broke the long-standing national record of 65.25m set by Sarita Singh nine years ago and made Anushka the new national

record holder for India. Her remarkable performance also highlighted her as one of the nation's most exciting young talents in field events.

The day also saw another national record in the men's pole vault. Dev Kumar Meena continued his impressive rise by clearing 5.46m. This mark improved the national record he had shared with Kuldeep Kumar at 5.45m and met the Asian Games qualification standard. It was Dev's second consecutive performance breaking the national record, showcasing the rapid growth of Indian pole vaulting.

This achievement for Dev

Meena came just a month after he shared the national record with Kuldeep Kumar at the Federation Cup in Ranchi, where both athletes cleared 5.45m. By going one centimetre higher in Bhubaneswar, Dev now holds the national record alone.

This accomplishment marks Dev's second consecutive national record-breaking performance. It also showcases the impressive progress in Indian men's pole vault. Notably, the national record has been improved five times in less than two years, showing the increasing depth and competitiveness in this event.

# Treesa-Gayatri advance at US Open, Rounak Chouhan enters main draw

IAN S

**FULLERTON:** India's women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand made a winning start to their campaign at the US Open 2026 badminton tournament, battling past Spain's Paula López and Lucía Rodríguez to reach the second round on Wednesday.

The Commonwealth Games medallists, ranked 58th in the world currently, registered a hard-fought 21-12, 14-21, 21-13 victory

at the Titan Gym in California to enter the pre-quarterfinals of the BWF Super 300 event. Treesa and Gayatri looked in control after comfortably taking the opener, but the Spanish pair fought back hard to force a decider.

But the Indian pair found their touch in the third game and ended with a dominant display to clinch victory. The tournament is another step in the comeback trail of the duo, with Treesa returning to competition at the Indonesia Open earlier this

month after a three-month rehabilitation period owing to injury.

India's only representatives in the women's doubles draw, Treesa and Gayatri, will next take on Japan's Sumire Nakade and Miyu Takahashi for a place in the quarter-finals.

Qualifier Rounak Chouhan carried on his good run of form to make it to the main draw in the men's singles. The Indian shuttler defeated Enogat Roy of France 21-19, 21-16 before pipping Kuo Kuan-lin of Chinese Taipei

13-21, 21-14, 21-10 in the qualifying rounds. Rounak too had come through the qualifiers at last week's Macau Open and went on to reach the quarter-finals, highlighting his growing confidence on the international circuit. India's main draw challenge will pick up pace on Wednesday as Lakshya Sen, Kidambi Srikanth, and Anmol Kharb begin their campaigns.

Meanwhile, defending men's singles champion Ayush Shetty will not return to defend the title he won at last year's US Open.

## MOVIES SCHEDULE

**THURSDAY • 25 JUNE**

**OBSESSION**  
(ENGLISH) (A)  
11:10 AM

**WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE**  
26th JUNE

**COCKTAIL 2**

**MAIN VAAPAS AAUNGA**  
(HINDI) (U/A16+)  
11:40 AM - 02:00 PM • 06:15 PM

**TOY STORY 5**  
(3D ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES) (U)  
04:30 PM

**COCKTAIL 2**  
(A)  
HINDI ATMOS - 01:30 PM  
HINDI - 11:00 AM • 03:15 PM • 05:20 PM

**Hi!**

**TOY STORY 5**  
(3D ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES) (U)  
04:30 PM

**WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE**  
(HINDI ATMOS) (U/A16+)  
07:30 PM

**INOX SRINAGAR**  
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